

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed January 6, 2006.

In the Office Action, claims 3-4 and 7-16, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In reliance thereon, the present Amendment incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 3 into independent claim 1 and has canceled claim 3. The dependency of the remaining dependent claims has been amended as needed.

Claims 17-22 are canceled.

New claims are presented herewith. Each of the new independent claims includes the subject matter of claim 1 as well as the subject matter of a claim indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

To summarize for the Examiner's convenience:

- New independent claim 23 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 4 and that of intervening dependent claim 2;
- New independent claim 27 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 9 as well as that of intervening dependent claim 5;
- New independent claim 29 includes the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 13, and
- New independent claim 33 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 15.

20 claims are now pending.

It is respectfully submitted that all amended and new claims include subject matter indicated by the Office to be allowable. No new matter has been added.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance. If any unresolved issues remain, please contact the undersigned attorney of record at the telephone number indicated below and whatever is necessary to resolve such issues will be done at once.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb 10, 2006

By: 

Alan W. Young  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 37,970

Young Law Firm, P.C.  
4370 Alpine Rd., Ste. 106  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Tel.: (650) 851-7210  
Fax: (650) 851-7232

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